

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.00/34 FOR Report #44

FROM Naples (McCloud) DATED April 28, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 8 P.O.

REGARDING: Cattle, Hides and Skins, Meat -- Italian East Africa.
Concerted efforts to achieve success in the industry
of cattle raising and related pursuits are now in progress.

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C. Cattle, Hides and Skins. Meat.

Another important industry involved in Ethiopia's struggle for economic self-sufficiency (and incidentally, by Italy itself) is that of cattle raising and related pursuits. Upon the colony's ability to export first grade animals and good quality hides and skins and also, to supply an increased quantity of meat, will depend in a large measure, the outcome of the autarchic venture. Concerted efforts to achieve success in this field are in progress.

The country has been zoned for experimental purposes and zootechnical stations have been established in each zone for the purpose of introducing new and better methods in all phases of the industry. It is hoped that two objects will be fulfilled: (1) to help assure alimentary self-sufficiency and (2) serve to increase the production of those articles lending themselves to export, (here it is of interest to note that Italy imports some 140,000 head of cattle and about 440,000 quintals of fresh and frozen meat per year). Principal areas affected by this plan are: Gimma, Ammages, Uollega, Harrar, Uollo-Galla, Scioa, Amhara, Arussi, Lekempti and Goggiam. From 60,000 to 70,000 quintals of hides and skins are said to be exported from these sections annually (exclusive of shipments made to Kenya and the Sudan). Although the quantity of these products is considered satisfactory for the present, an improvement in quality is desired. To this end, corrective measures, directed by the various experimental stations, as outlined below are now being effected:

- 1) Elimination of wasteful primitive methods of removing the skins.
- 2) Teaching natives how to properly treat, cure and preserve the skins.
- 3) Introducing of measures to reduce animal sickness so that the naturally strong, heavy even-grained skins of Ethiopian cattle will be relatively free from blemishes and marks.
- 4) Instruction of the natives in the use of modern implements.
- 5) Regulation of purchases and exchange of animals with due regard for sex and age of those designated for slaughter so as to safeguard future supplies and provide for improved breeding.

Similar to what has been done to assist coffee exporters, new regulations have been promulgated by the viceroy to govern the exportation of hides and skins. It is prophesied that exporters so engaged will profit materially by these regulations designed to reduce bureaucratic routine, provide export premiums and eliminate speculation. In this connection it is reported that 20 percent of the total hide and skin exports must be destined to Italian markets.

Meat forms an important item in the native diet. Apparently the supply about meets the demand so far as the colony itself is concerned, but this is not enough. Italy desires that the quantity be increased and the quality be improved so that frozen and canned meat may be exported eventually to the Kingdom. This feature of

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the problem is said to have the attention of Italy's foremost zootechnical experts.

Some time ago an Italian mission was sent to South Africa to study the meat question. Upon its return it recommended the introduction of all possible expedients to avoid what is considered the greatest of dangers to the cattle industry, i.e. "afra epizootica" and, in particular, the "pesta bovina". Consequently, an efficient veterinary service has been provided in order to augment the work now being performed in this connection by the "Istituti Vaccinogici Zeoprofilattici" already functioning in the colony. Apart from this duty, the new veterinary service will study the habits of the "virus pestoso" and the several systems of anti-pest vaccination with "vaccini morti". From these experiments it is expected that the Ethiopian cattle industry, covering an estimated 8 to 10 million head of excellent zebu will benefit materially. This work is considered urgent because many herds of Ethiopian cattle are said to have been greatly reduced (often wastefully) by the various military units stationed in the new territory.

Subsequent to the completion of this necessary preliminary work, meat packing plants will be built and emphasis will be placed upon all activities concerned with the exportation of meats and meat products. In this respect, a mission sent to Harrar recently by a private Italian meat company to conduct a survey is reported to have advised the commencement of first operations as follows: the establishment of

plants in the sections between Adela and Haranane and also between Lake Zuai and Arussi. The new plants will handle both meat and milk.

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